

Community Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
February 28, 2002

The Community Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Supreme Court Courtroom on February 28, 2002.

1. **Members present.** The following members of the committee were present: David Matsey, John Sharpnack, Ernest Yelton, and David Dreyer, chair.
2. **Welcome to new members.** Judge Dreyer welcomed the new members to the committee and recounted the history of the Community Relations Committee to them. He highlighted the “Faces of Justice” video, which was produced by the committee and distributed copies to all members present. Judge Dreyer also discussed the Bench/Media working group that was started by Judge David Welch. The group has historically met several times a year with media representatives and the Hoosier State Press Association.
3. **Public Service Announcements.** The committee discussed model scripts that judges could use to film public service announcements. Judge Dreyer distributed copies of 4 PSA scripts that he wrote. Elizabeth Osborn explained that the Supreme Court’s video technology is available for judges to film PSA’s. The technology is used by the court for live web-casts (oral arguments, ceremonies, etc.), and has the capability to film the PSA’s in the courtroom. The PSA’s filmed in the courtroom can be downloaded to CD, downloaded to a web link or put on videotape. Also, Ms. Osborn explained that they can encode existing videotapes and place on the court’s server for web access. The committee discussed the possibility of limitations on the PSA’s during election years and the potential for ethical violations. Judge Dreyer will draft a letter to the Indiana Supreme Court asking for guidance in the use of their equipment, and will also draft a letter to the Commission on Judicial Qualifications asking for an opinion on judges using the Supreme Court’s technological equipment for public service announcement.
4. **Faces of Justice.** David Remondini informed the committee that the “Faces of Justice” video was recently updated to include the constitutional changes to the jurisdiction of the Indiana Supreme Court. Because of this change, the new videos need to be distributed to Indiana’s trial judges. The committee discussed possibly distributing the video in April at the Spring Judicial College. The committee also discussed sending an announcement to judges to inform them of the video’s availability and purpose. The committee suggested that the Judicial Center send an e-mail announcement to judges on this issue.

5. **Fire Brigade.** Judge Dreyer explained that the Fire Brigade is a combined media/judge panel to mediate disputes between judges and reporters. He reported that the media has been hesitant to participate, and recommended that the committee contact the Hoosier State Press Association to find out if the media will participate. If the media decides not to participate in the Fire Brigade, the Fire Brigade will still function as an aid to judges with media problems.
6. **Recognition Awards.** The committee discussed the IJA awards for media and judges, agreed that the nomination process needs to be promoted on a wider basis. The committee suggested a press release announcing the nominations and contacting civic groups to solicit nominations. Judge Dreyer assigned Jenny Bauer and Judge Stan Levine to work on the protocol for the nomination process.
7. **Future Projects.** The committee discussed the following as future projects: the bench/media working group and a possible essay contest.
8. **Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Community Relations Committee is scheduled for May 15, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

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